reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, from time to time addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women for appointment as High Court Judges.

Utilisation of Fund Meant for SCs/STs

†4504. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount given for the welfare of Scheduled Castes is not properly utilized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by Government to ensure proper utilization of the said amount; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this applies also in the case of Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No case of improper utilization of funds has come to the notice of either the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

To ensure proper utilization, funds are released on the basis of careful examination of proposals, containing detailed information regarding past performance proper utilization of funds already released *etc.*, received from the States/UTs and other implementing Agencies.

Pre-Matric Scholarships

4505. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme of "Pre-matric Scholarships to children of those in unclean occupation";

(b) if so, the number of children benefited through this scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) how much amount was allocated to each State ?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation is operating since 1977-78.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of beneficiaries covered and the amount of Central assistance released under the scheme during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Centrally sponsored scheme of pre-matric scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations

(Central Assistance released)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	(Beneficiaries covered) 1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Anticipated)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9139	15490	17816	2.61442	30.38969	74.07773
2.	Assam	2016	1358	3880	NIL	nil	nil
3.	Bihar	581	6365	7200	NIL	2.75	33.25
4.	Goa	NA	Nil	103	NIL	0.358	nil
5.	Gujarat	128748	144118	158526	83.77803	100.600	306.33325
6.	Haryana	18719	22046	23865	NIL	62.83581	13.44
7.	Himachal Pradesh	759	1746	2052		0.04	nil
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	661	737	1908	1.2145	0.69	nil
9.	Karnataka	2548	4589	8304	27.3395	9.47	nil
10.	Kerala	1806	2164	2519		0.7	7.0035
11.	Madhya Pradesh	68505	68165	74189	9.73225	90.22125	86.04775
12.	Maharashtra	23375	26101	52654	21.2515	90.9805	174.6635
13.	Orissa	995	1116	1810	NIL	nil	7.72784
14.	Punjab	10082	10455	9964	NIL	nil	4.83093
15.	Rajasthan	14770	16113	29600	NIL	nil	nil
16.	Sikkim	126	170	251	NIL	0.07375	0.60175

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
17.	Tamil Nadu	24350	30566	30920	27.926	34.4335	63.26125
18.	Tripura	3890	4073	3955	1.6863	2.9082	2.0225
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5745	1960	5693	24.4575	8.55	nil
20.	West Bengal	NA	115	541	NIL	nil	nil
21.	Delhi	NA	NA	185		5	nil
22.	Pondicherry	NA	Nil	1870	NIL	NIL	15
	TOTAL :	316815	357447	437805	200	440	788.26

Surplus Funds with Punjab Wakf Board

4506. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Wakf Board is having surplus funds with it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken for taking up the development works at large scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Punjab Wakf Board has been able to generate surplus funds by streamlining the management and curtailing expenditure.

(c) A number of development projects are in the pipeline for utilizing the surplus fund.

Residential Schools and Hostels for SC/ST Students

4507. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential Schools and hostels set up in the country for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to improve the standard and the facilities of the existing residential schools and hostels in the country, particularly in Orissa; and